Jazz Studies at MSU shares the classroom and stage to help enrich communities and inspire young artists to embody the jazz tradition.
A brilliant array of artists headline MSU Jazz for a third consecutive year.

Stars aligned for the third consecutive year as the MSU College of Music welcomed a brilliant array of jazz performers to teach, mentor, and perform for the 2015-16 MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program thanks to a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union.

The innovative residency program continues to attract high-level talent and serve as a model for jazz studies programs nationwide. The 2015-16 residency program featured legendary and critically acclaimed musicians from the jazz scene, including Brian Lynch, Jimmy Cobb, Kenny Barron, and Tim Warfield, Jr.

Trumpeter Brian Lynch kicked off the residency in October, followed by drummer Jimmy Cobb in December. Opening the spring semester were pianist Kenny Barron in February followed by saxophonist Tim Warfield, Jr. in March. The star-studded lineup provided MSU students and local and regional school communities a rare opportunity to listen to and learn from legendary greats who have contributed to landmark recordings and have been recognized as Jazz Masters by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ensembles of the MSU Jazz Studies program toured with the Jazz Artists in Residence from locations reaching to Ludington and Traverse City in northern lower Michigan and spanning east and west to regional communities of Grand Rapids and Detroit.

The MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program represents the largest-ever investment in the College’s curriculum and provides one-on-one instruction, collaboration, and performance opportunities with some of the world’s best jazz musicians.

A total of twelve artists have participated in the residency since its inaugural 2013-14 season. Guest artists in addition to the 2015-16 season include: Antonio Hart, saxophone; Jon Faddis, trumpet; Jeff Hamilton, drums; Christian McBride, bass; Robin Eubanks, trombone; Peter Bernstein, guitar; Vincent Bowens, saxophone; and Tim Froncek, drums.

MSU’s Jazz Studies program was founded in 2001 and excels in community outreach, engagement, and performance opportunities. Musically active faculty help strengthen college programming and instruction in blues-based jazz through professional connections, chart-topping recordings, and frequent performances across the U.S. and abroad.

“The unparalleled gift from the MSUFCU puts MSU on the map as a center of jazz education, innovation, and study. “The Credit Union’s generosity and vision helps ensure that jazz will thrive and be a treasured, living art form for generations.”

James Forger, dean, MSU College of Music

“Everywhere I go and everyone I meet asks how we do it. The gift from the MSUFCU makes it possible for us to bring in amazing talent and attract the best and the brightest students and faculty. It’s a gift that keeps on giving, and allows our program to excel.”

Rodney Whitaker, director of Jazz Studies
MSU College of Music

“Arts and culture are key components of strong, vibrant communities where people want to live, work, and play. This gift helps build that framework, and provides exceptional opportunities for students and our community to experience jazz—one of our nation’s greatest artistic treasures.”

April Clobes, MSUFCU president and CEO
BRIAN LYNCH, JAZZ TRUMPET 10/5 – 10/11, 2015

Brian Lynch is a vital force in hardcore, straight ahead, and Latin Jazz communities, as well as a respected teacher of jazz. As a band leader and recording artist, he has released numerous critically acclaimed CDs, and has toured the world with various ensembles.

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JIMMY COBB, JAZZ DRUMS 11/30 – 12/6, 2015

A mostly self-taught musician, Jimmy Cobb’s inspirational work with Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Cannonball Adderley and Co. spanned from 1957 to 1963, and included the masterpiece “Kind of Blue”—the most popular jazz recording in history.

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KENNY BARRON, JAZZ PIANO 2/9 – 2/14, 2016

Honored as a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2010, Kenny Barron is known for his elegant playing, sensitive melodies and infectious rhythms. The Los Angeles Times named him “one of the top jazz pianists in the world,” and Jazz Weekly calls him “the most lyrical piano player of our time.”

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TIM WARFIELD, JR., JAZZ SAXOPHONE 3/1 – 3/6, 2016

Tim Warfield, Jr. began studying the saxophone at age 9 and placed third at the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition in 1991. He has appeared on television and stage, including the Today Show and Ted Turner’s Trumpet Awards, and with such notables as Donald Byrd, Michelle Rosewoman, Marcus Miller, Marlon Jordan, James Williams, Christian McBride, and many others.

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Etienne Charles knows a thing or two about the trumpet. So when it came time for the MSU assistant professor of jazz trumpet to recommend a musician for a weeklong residency program through the MSU College of Music Jazz Studies program, one name rose to the top of his list: Brian Lynch.

“Brian Lynch is a trumpeter of the highest caliber,” said Charles. “He plays with fire and grace, and has a beautiful spirit and a brilliant mind. I knew he would be perfect for our students.”

Lynch visited the university Oct. 5-11 as part of the third year of the Jazz Artist in Residence program made possible through a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union. The Grammy Award-winning trumpeter was the first of four artists this academic year to mentor and perform with jazz students at MSU, as well as with students at schools, colleges and academies in Lansing and in western and southeastern Michigan. Lynch’s packed residency also included public performances at the MSU Federal Credit Union and Fairchild Theatre on campus.

Lynch has emerged as a vital force in the hardcore, straight-ahead and Latin Jazz communities through his long tenures with Afro-Caribbean pioneer Eddie Palmieri and bebop maestro Phil Woods. An honored graduate of two of the jazz world’s most distinguished academies—Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers and the Horace Silver Quintet—he has collaborated with jazz artists such as Benny Golson, Toshiko Akiyoshi and Charles McPherson; Latin music icons such as Hector LaVoe and Lila Downs; and pop luminaries like Prince. Lynch has released 19 critically acclaimed CDs, received multiple Grammy nominations and has been awarded numerous grants, including one from the National Endowment for the Arts.

“He’s also a very well-respected teacher,” said Charles. “He’s extremely clear and definitive in his instruction. He’s very thorough and breaks exercises down in tempo and in length so students maximize their learning.”

MSU Jazz Studies senior Walter Cano said he was thrilled when he heard Lynch was coming to campus, and related a similar observation about the trumpeter’s ability to share, listen and advise on technique.

“He was very kind and willing to answer questions, and he specifically helped me out after one concert,” said Cano, who plays trumpet. “He also shared a lot of stories about playing with some legendary bands and performers. He painted a vivid picture of what it’s like to be coming up with titans of music.”
Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker said that bringing jazz luminaries like Lynch to MSU puts the College on the map as a center for jazz study and tradition, and supports the College’s initiatives to engage students and communities statewide through music education and performance.

“We’re extremely grateful to the MSU Federal Credit Union for a gift that propels us toward the highest standards of excellence,” said Whitaker. “Because of their generosity, we’re able to bring jazz masters to campus year-after-year, and support the traditions and evolution of a great American art form.”

LYNCH ON THE ROAD

While an MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence in October, jazz trumpeter Brian Lynch took to the road with Jazz Orchestra 1 as part of MSU’s efforts to bring jazz performance and education to Michigan high schools, music academies, and colleges.

Destinations and highlights:

- **West Shore Community College**: 50 students attended an outreach concert for more than 275 community members, and a jam session for 200 students and community members.

- **Byron Center High School**: 70 students participated in workshops and an outreach concert for more than 500 community members.

- **Shabazz Public School Academy**: 195 students attended an outreach concert for the academy and community members.

What people said:

“Every year, we are fortunate to be one of the stops for the MSU BeBop Spartans. This experience is not only one of high musical integrity, but also serves as a point of information for students who are interested in continuing their education at a four-year university. The MSU BeBop Spartans, with the generous support of the MSU Federal Credit Union, have touched the lives of many people north of the ‘I-96 border,’ and specifically those of the Mason, Oceana, and Manistee Counties. We look forward to a continued collaboration and would like to thank everyone involved in making this experience happen for our surrounding communities.”

—Ted Malt, Director of the West Shore Community College of Performing Arts and Professor of Jazz Studies

“Once again, we are in awe of the experience that Michigan State University Jazz Orchestra 1 brings to our school every year! The guest, Brian Lynch, was wonderful with our students. We are very grateful for our relationship with MSU.”

—Marc Townley Band Director Byron Center High School
Jazz Artist in Residence Jimmy Cobb opens the week performing with the MSU Professors of Jazz during the Credit Union’s Blue Mondays concert.

Randy Gelispie, MSU instructor of jazz drums has played with a lot of jazz greats since he began playing professional drums in ninth grade. Last December, Gelispie brought a legendary figure with iconic connections to campus for a weeklong residency as part of the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program.

“We called Jimmy and he said ‘cool,’” said Gelispie of the day he and Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker phoned Jimmy Cobb and asked if he would come to MSU. “He’s like that. You’ll ask him a question and he’ll just answer in a real laid back way.”

Cobb, a giant among jazz drummers, worked with Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Cannonball Adderley and Co. in the 1950s and 1960s. His inspirational career includes the masterpiece “Kind of Blue”—the most popular jazz recording in history. His contributions to the jazz canon include playing on “Sketches of Spain,” “Someday My Prince will Come,” “Live at Carnegie Hall,” “Live at the Blackhawk,” “Porgy and Bess,” and many other watershed Miles Davis recordings. In addition, Cobb worked extensively with artists that include Dinah Washington, Pearl Bailey, Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan, and Billie Holiday. In 2008, Cobb received the Don Redman Heritage Award, followed in 2009 by the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award. Cobb remains active, leading Jimmy Cobb’s Mob in New York City, and touring internationally in Japan, China, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, and South Africa.

Cobb was the second of four artists to come to the university in academic year 2015-16 through the jazz residency program supported by a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union. Cobb mentored and performed with MSU jazz students Nov. 30–Dec. 6, and also took to the road with the MSU Jazz Orchestra 1 to work with students at high schools and academies throughout Michigan. Cobb’s packed residency included public performances at the MSU Federal Credit Union and Fairchild Theatre on campus.

“It was very rewarding to have him here,” said Gelispie. “My students loved him. They enjoyed the connections he brought by playing all those years with all those jazz greats.”
MSU Jazz Studies graduate student Nick Bracewell said he was amazed by Cobb's visit, as well hearing that Gelispie knew Cobb from life on the jazz circuit.

"I'm always going to remember getting to sit right behind Mr. Cobb and watching him play," said Bracewell, a jazz drummer. "Meeting someone like him—another human being who has lived out the dreams we all have as musicians—makes it all seem possible."

Whitaker said that bringing jazz icons to MSU provides an invaluable experience for students, and solidifies the College's position as a center for jazz study and tradition. Visits by jazz luminaries also support the College's initiatives to provide music education and performance opportunities to communities and students across Michigan.

“The generosity of the MSU Federal Credit Union has made it possible for us to bring in artists who have significantly shaped this great American art form we call jazz," said Whitaker. “We’re exceptionally grateful for their visionary gift that allows us to achieve the highest standards of excellence in jazz education and performance.”

COBB ON THE ROAD

While an MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence in December 2015, jazz drummer and icon Jimmy Cobb took to the road with Jazz Orchestra 1 as part of MSU’s efforts to bring jazz performance and education to Michigan high schools, music academies, and colleges.

Destinations and highlights:

• **Hackett Catholic Central High School/Western Michigan University**: 25 students from Hackett and 25 from WMU participated in an outreach concert that was attended by 300 community members.

• **Ann Arbor Pioneer High School**: 65 students participated in an outreach concert that was attended by 750 community members.

• **Traverse City West High School**: 40 students participated in workshops and attended an outreach concert with 650 community members.

• **Detroit Carr Center**: 85 students and community members attended an outreach concert.

What people said:

“The opportunity for students from this area to collaborate, share, and listen to the students from MSU is beyond measure. Working with master jazz performer and educator Rodney Whitaker is an experience that will forever impact them as musicians and humans. Finally, having the opportunity to listen, speak with, and break bread with a jazz icon like Jimmy Cobb will be a career highlight for many of the young jazz musicians attending the workshop and the concert. We are all indebted to Michigan State University College of Music, the Jazz Studies program of Michigan State, and the MSU Federal Credit Union for supporting this endeavor, but perhaps more importantly we should all be grateful to Professor Rodney Whitaker for including students from throughout southeast Michigan in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

–David A. Leach, director of bands, Ann Arbor Pioneer High School

Members of MSU Jazz Orchestra 1 applaud the talent exhibited by Jimmy Cobb during their performance at Hackett Catholic Central.

Jimmy Cobb takes a moment to offer his autograph for fans during his tour of select Michigan high schools.
MSUFCU JAZZ ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE, KENNY BARRON

Renowned jazz pianist performs and mentors aspiring musicians.

Xavier Davis said he learned much of what he knows about jazz piano from listening to the greats. So when the associate professor of jazz piano at the MSU College of Music had a chance to bring one of the world’s finest jazz pianists to campus, he did, providing his students an opportunity to learn from one of the greats, too.

Leveraging his musical network, Davis arranged for the Philadelphia-born Kenny Barron to spend a week at MSU as part of the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program. Davis and Barron had been colleagues at Juilliard for six years, and also knew each other from the jazz circuit. So when Barron came to MSU in mid-February 2016, the rapport between students, faculty, and artist was instantaneous.

“It was great to bring someone of his level to MSU,” said Davis. “Every time I hear Kenny play, it’s a lesson. I want my students to have the same experience—to learn from and be exposed to the greats.”

Honored as a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for Arts in 2010 and inducted into the American Jazz Hall of Fame, the 70-something Barron is known for his elegant playing, sensitive melodies and infectious rhythms. Considered one of the top jazz pianists in the world, as well as a master performer and composer, Barron has worked with such legendary artists as Joe Henderson, Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, and Ella Fitzgerald.

Barron was the third of four critically acclaimed artists to visit the College of Music in academic year 2015-16 through the jazz residency program supported by a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union. Barron mentored and performed with MSU jazz students Feb. 8-14, and toured with the MSU Jazz Octets, making stops at high schools and academies throughout Michigan. Barron’s residency also included public performances at the MSU Federal Credit Union and the Fairchild Theatre.

“Barron’s teaching style is leading by example,” Davis said. “He brought an inventiveness to each performance, and it was inspiring for students to hear him come up with amazing music right before their eyes. That’s a powerful teaching tool that gives students something to aspire to.”

Kenny Barron performs with MSU Octets at Cook Recital Hall in the College of Music.
MSU Jazz Studies junior Gerand McDowell counts Barron as one of his major influences. He said he was equally thrilled and nervous when he heard Barron was coming to MSU, and never thought in a million years he would be spending time with one of his jazz heroes in such a meaningful and personal way.

“It’s one thing to be among 500 people who shake a musician’s hand after a performance, and it’s another to spend time with him on the road,” McDowell said. “We rode together in busses and cars and he spent time with us between sets and after performances. It was incredible.”

MSU Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker said the jazz residency program provides an immersive, one-on-one experience for students, and helps position the College as a center for jazz study and tradition.

“Visits by jazz luminaries such as Mr. Barron also underscore our initiatives to bring music education and performance opportunities to students across Michigan,” Whitaker said. “We couldn’t do this without the generosity of the MSU Federal Credit Union. We are eternally grateful for their vision that propels us toward the highest standards of excellence.”

BARRON ON THE ROAD

While an MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence in February 2016, jazz pianist Kenny Barron took to the road with the Jazz Octets as part of MSU’s efforts to bring jazz performance and education to Michigan high schools, music academies, and colleges.

Destinations and highlights:

- **Oxford High School**: 45 students from Oxford participated in a workshop and attended an outreach concert with 300 community members.
- **East Lansing High School**: 100 students attended an outreach concert.
- **Fowlerville High School**: 300 students attended a school assembly.
- **Williamston Middle School**: Close to 600 students attended an in-school performance.
- **Carr Center**: 97 people from the surrounding Detroit community attended a concert.

What people said:

“*My students loved the concert! The performance was very well received, and it was very special not only to see Kenny Barron, but also the MSU students’ performance.*”

- David Larzerlere, director of bands, East Lansing High School

“I had many teachers who were amazed to have and hear such an influential artist at our school. The students commented that he was so easy to listen to and made everything sound smooth.”

- Melanie Rosin, director of bands, Williamston Middle School
Diego Rivera did not hesitate when he was asked to name a saxophonist for a premier jazz residency program through the MSU College of Music.

"Tim Warfield, Jr. is an excellent choice," said Rivera, assistant professor of jazz saxophone and improvisation. "It was great for our students to see his musical talents, as well as his warmth and character as a human being."

In late February and early March 2016, Warfield became the fourth of four artists to visit the College of Music through the 2015-16 MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program. His weeklong residency from Feb. 29 to March 6 was made possible by a $1 million endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union and included master classes with jazz students, a musical tour of high schools and academies throughout Michigan with the MSU Jazz Orchestra 1, and public performances at the MSU Federal Credit Union and Fairchild Theatre.

A native of York, Pennsylvania, Tim Warfield, Jr. serves as artist-in-residence at Messiah College and as an adjunct music faculty member at Temple University in Philadelphia. He is also a member of the Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia under the direction of Terell Stafford.


"As a musician, it’s incredible to be around somebody like Tim," Rivera explained. "He’s really cut from the same cloth as John Coltrane and other saxophone greats. He’s also very approachable, and genuinely interested in what students have to say. Every day, he stayed as long as he was needed to make sure students got the most from him."

MSU Jazz Studies junior Markus Howell said he will never forget Warfield’s genuine interest and kindness, and how taken he was by Warfield’s humbleness. He recalls how Warfield compared notes with students, and considered their ideas on music styles, techniques, and influences.

"He would give us something old and we would give him something new," Howell said. "Then he would check things out. That meant a lot—to see that even someone with so much mastery and command over what he does is still learning, still pushing to get better. It was very inspiring to see that."

MSU Director of Jazz Studies Rodney Whitaker said the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program helps strengthen
MSU’s position as a center for jazz study and tradition. Now beginning it’s fourth year, the program brings in three to five prominent jazz artists throughout the academic year to mentor MSU students as well as K-12 students at schools and academies statewide.

“Jazz exists because of the strong tradition of mentorship,” Whitaker said. “The MSU Federal Credit Union recognizes that tradition and has provided an incredible gift that will help shape and influence the next generation of jazz musicians.”

Howell concurred that the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program has had a profound impact on his musical study and career.

“Having these artists come here is one of the main reasons I’m here,” said Howell, a Florida native. “When I heard about the program, I knew MSU was where I wanted to be. Now that I’m here, I’m just so grateful to be part of it.”

WARFIELD ON THE ROAD

While an MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence in February and March 2016, jazz saxophonist Tim Warfield, Jr. took to the road with Jazz Orchestra 1 as part of MSU’s efforts to bring jazz performance and education to Michigan high schools, music academies, and colleges.

Destinations and highlights:

- Royal Oak High School: 36 students participated in a workshop and attended an outreach concert with 200 community members.

- Spring Lake High School: 16 students attended a workshop, 40 played during the performance, 100 attended an outreach concert.

- Alma High School: 32 students participated in a workshop, 230 community members attended an outreach concert.

- Carr Center Theatre: 110 people from the surrounding Detroit community attended a concert.

What people said:

“The experience of having Professor Whitaker and the MSU Jazz Orchestra 1 work with my students and having Mr. Warfield perform with my students was one of the highlights of my teaching career. The students gained a tremendous amount of knowledge in such a short time by interacting and collaborating with these great players. The experience will be one my students and I will remember for the rest of our lives.”

- Band Director Tim Newman, Alma High School

“I learned a lot about how technical music can be, and how adding things that aren’t on paper can add a lot more feeling to the music.”

- Norene Bassin, student, Royal Oak High School

“I’m so grateful my students had an opportunity to work with this amazing band. Professor Whitaker works so well with these young musicians. Tim Warfield was truly inspirational and an absolute gentleman. Max Colley handled every last detail. The students were gracious, approachable and gave a fantastic performance!”

- Dave Jensen, band director, Royal Oak High School
ANNOUNCING
2016/17 MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Jazz Artists in Residence

10/10 – 10/16
Russell Malone
jazz guitar
Blue Mondays
Oct. 10, 6 p.m.
With MSU Jazz
Orchestras I, II, III
Oct. 14, 8 p.m.
Fairchild

12/5 – 12/11
Rufus Reid
jazz bass
Blue Mondays
Dec. 5, 6 p.m.
With MSU Jazz
Orchestras I, II, III
Dec. 9, 8 p.m.
Fairchild

2/6 – 2/12
Anat Cohen
jazz clarinet
With MSU Jazz
Octets
Feb. 10, 8 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall

3/20– 3/26
Conrad Herwig
jazz trombone
Blue Mondays
Mar. 20, 6 p.m.
With MSU Jazz
Orchestras I, II, III
Mar. 24, 8 p.m.
Fairchild